



*Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary*

2011 is officially halfway gone already – amazing! We’ve weathered the legislative session, the weather and the budget, and we’re in the middle of high summer.

And what a summer is it – drought in some areas, torrential rains in other places; a little bit of each here in Louisiana. As the saying goes, if you don’t like the weather, wait 15 minutes.

But the more some things change, the more other things remain the same. And what never changes at OJJ, no matter what happens, is that our staff keeps on keeping on, doing the right thing and working on behalf of the youth and families we serve. The pages of this month’s *Inside Scoop...of OJJ* are full, as usual, of the events and activities that you carry out day in and day out, to meet the mission. Reading the newsletter always makes me proud of all of you, and proud to be a part of such a dynamic agency. It’s great to keep up with what’s going on in all of our locations statewide.

I hope you enjoy reading *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* as much as I do. It’s by you, for you and about you. What a great agency! I hope you are enjoying your summer, staying cool while being cool.

“Doc” *Dr. Mary L. Livers*

## The Daily Motivator

### Choose excellence

How do you achieve excellence? By doing the right thing.

Excellence is the result of caring about what you do, and of putting your very best effort into what you care about.

Excellence is an outward expression of inner integrity, and few things are more valuable than that.

Excellence is a choice you always have the option of making. Whatever your level of skill, whatever resources are available, you can take what you have and move forward with excellence.

Excellence is a product of your attitude. Excellence is a product of your passion and commitment.

A life devoted to excellence is not easy, and can at times be frustrating and painful.

Yet a life without excellence is even worse, because the pain of regret for what could have been is a pain that never ceases.

If you're going to spend the time and do the work anyway, choose to do it with excellence.

Excellence is an investment that continues to pay dividends long after the effort has been made.

— Ralph Marston

## Transitions

### Comings and Goings.....

#### New Faces

#### Bridge City Center for Youth

**Shawn Crowley – JJS 1**

**Matthew Brown – JJS 1**

**Torey Dickerson – JJS 1**

**Joseph Powe – Youth Facility Director**

#### Jetson Center for Youth

**Brian Gilmore – Food Production Worker**

**Vernett King-Cage – JJS 1**

#### Retirement

#### Central Office

**Perla Steele – Program Manager-Social Services, 29 years of service**

#### Field Services

**Lou Bertha Gloston – Instructor**

## CQIS POLICY UPDATES

### Approved:

- A.1.8 Emergency Operations
- A.2.17 Employee Suspensions
- C.2.13 Key Control Program
- C.2.15 Control and Use of Flammable, Toxic, and Caustic Substances (FTCs)
- A.2.18 Criminal Background Checks
- A.2.38 Ethics for Public Employees
- A.2.48 Driver Safety Program
- B.2.14 Secure Care SAVRY
- B.8.3 Volunteer Services Program
- B.8.11 Pre-Release Program
- C.1.5 Research
- C.4.3 Mandatory Reporting of Abuse and Neglect of Youth
- D.5.1 Composition/Location/Retention of Active & Inactive Youth Records – Community Based Services
- D.7.1 Intake Services
- D.9.1 Placement of Youth in Residential Facilities
- D.9.3 Case Assessment Process for Non-Secure Placement

- D.9.4 Placement Process
- D.10.5 Receipt, Security and Disbursement of Funds Collected from Youth, Supervision Fees and Restitution
- D.10.7 Probation and Parole Supervision
- D.10.12 Use of Interventions – Community Based Services
- D.10.19 Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP)
- D.10.26 Place of Detention
- D.11.1 Predispositional Investigation and Social History

#### **Rescinded:**

- A.1.2 Integrity
- DYS Policies
- 5.1 Case Records
- 6.2 Research Projects
- 7.1 Intake Services
- 9.1 Placement of Youth in Residential Facilities
- 9.3 Case Assessment Process for Out of Home Placement
- 9.4 Placement Process
- 10.5 Juvenile Supervision Fees
- 10.7 Probation and Parole Supervision
- 10.12 Use of Force
- 10.25 Apprehension of Juveniles
- 10.26 Place of Detention
- 11.1 Pre-Dispositional Investigation and Social History



*Southern magnolia grandiflora at central office.*

### **OJJ Gets a Visit from Arkansas DYS**



*The Arkansas delegation meets with DAS Carolyn Lewis and New Orleans RM Kelly Clement at the New Orleans office.*

In June, visitors from our sister agency, the Arkansas Division of Youth Services spent time in New Orleans, visiting the regional office and several programs and providers. Among the seven guests was **DYS Director Ronald Angel**. Mr. Angel said he wanted to visit Louisiana because we are neighbors and our goals are the same. In Arkansas they heard about the innovations we have implemented and progress we are making. Mr. Angel noted that what they have heard was correct based on their observations. They would like to return to meet even more staff. Thanks to **DAS Carolyn Lewis, RM Kelly Clement** and staff for hosting our neighbors.

### **Certificate of Technical Studies - Fall Semester to Begin**

**By Fran Martin, Staff Development Director**

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System is again offering online classes for the **Certificate of Technical Studies: Juvenile Justice**. There are eight courses in the certificate program, designed to benefit people employed in the area of juvenile justice and related fields, who work with high-risk adolescents, or those interested in a career in the area of juvenile justice. A detailed description of the certificate program follows.

Three of the eight courses will be offered through LCTCS during the fall semester, which begins August 22, 2011. The last day to register for fall courses and payment of fees is August 18, 2011.

The courses include **Introduction to Juvenile Justice (JUVJ 0110)**, **Basic Fundamentals of Working with Mentally Ill Youth (JUVJ 1004)** and **Basic Fundamentals of Technical Reporting (JUVJ 1007)**. Course descriptions and information on registration and tuition/fees are available through the link [www.online.lctcs.edu](http://www.online.lctcs.edu).

When completing the electronic application at [www.online.lctcs.edu](http://www.online.lctcs.edu), you will be asked to choose a home college, either Northshore Technical College or Louisiana Delta Community College. All financial aid and enrollment information will be processed through this home college. This is also the college that will provide you with your Certificate once you complete the program.

The colleges have different options for student financial aid and may have additional application requirements for registration. For further information, please contact Karolyn Pinsel at Northshore Technical College, Florida Parishes Campus at [kpinsel@northshorecollege.edu](mailto:kpinsel@northshorecollege.edu) or 225-222-4251, extension 207, or Carlos Morris at Louisiana Delta Community College, Monroe at [cmorris@ladelta.edu](mailto:cmorris@ladelta.edu) or 318-345-9214.

OJJ policy A.2.54, Attainment of One Year Certificate in Juvenile Justice, addresses the specific guidelines regarding which OJJ staff may qualify for a pay increase upon successful completion of the eight courses in the certificate program.

I hope you can take advantage of these excellent educational opportunities, which will benefit you in your work with youth. Please let me know if I can answer any questions. Contact me at 225-287-7984 or email [fran.martin@la.gov](mailto:fran.martin@la.gov)

**The courses for the Certificate of Technical Studies: Juvenile Justice include:**

**Introduction to Juvenile Justice 101 (3)\***

Introduction to the historical and contemporary aspects of juvenile corrections in Louisiana. Explores the evolution of juvenile corrections from punishment-based in the early 1900s to rehabilitative in the latter part of the century, to the treatment models of the 21<sup>st</sup> century reform movement. Provides an overview of the mission, vision and guiding principles of OJJ, the agency, its programs and developmental processes of LAMOD and Service Coordination. Introduces Louisiana's court process and procedures for youth from arrest to final disposition, including OJJ's role. Introduces primary federal and state statutes as they apply to juvenile offenders, with emphasis on six constitutional amendments. Includes discussion of actual court cases and scenarios pertaining to the constitutional amendments covered in the course.

**Basic Fundamentals of Youth, Drugs and Juvenile Programs 100 (3)\***

Introduction to current trends, programs and approaches to youth addiction, treatment options, assessment processes, and related behavioral issues for youthful offenders specifically housed in secure-care settings and under supervision.

**Basic Fundamentals of Crisis Intervention 100 (3)\***

An overview of the techniques and approaches to crisis intervention for entry-level juvenile justice professionals. Includes initial intervention, de-escalation and assessment, resolution and/or referral, with emphasis on safety. Includes personal effectiveness, therapeutic prevention and intervention, recognition of threat levels, voluntary compliance, verbal and non-verbal communications, active and passive listening, and medication.



**Basic Fundamentals of Working with Mentally Ill Youth 100 (1)\***

Addresses supervision and care of youthful offenders in confinement. Builds awareness of the dynamics, basic behaviors, and interpersonal interactions often found among youthful offenders exhibiting serious mental disorders.

**Basic Fundamentals of Maladaptive Behavior 100 (3)\***

Teaches strategies for working with youth presenting maladaptive behavior. Provides a basic introduction for understanding the nature of adolescent social behavior, diagnosis, and classification of mental disorders. Introduces a number of disorders and treatment options at a basic level to include anxiety, mood and personality disorders, schizophrenia, sexual and gender issues, substance-related and psychophysiological disorders.

**Introduction to Ethics and Boundaries in Working with Youth and High-Risk Behaviors 100 (3)\***

Introduction of ethical issues surrounding the work of individuals with youth exhibiting high risk behaviors. Addresses Maslow's Levels of Human Needs and the relationship between unmet needs and behaviors. Provides guidance on relative human dignity and appropriate boundaries which must be established and supported in day-to-day work with troubled youth.

**Basic Fundamentals of Technical Reporting 100 (3)\***

Information and practice on writing a variety of reports required in juvenile justice programs. Emphasizes detail, factual content, objective presentation, and a defined purpose of specific readers.

**Cooperative Work Experience--Externship 100 (3)\***

Externship is based on work experience in a setting within OJJ or one of the related field settings.

**Success Stories****Lake Charles OJJ Reports Several Successful Client Achievements**

**PPO Angela Stevens** recognized one of her youth, A.L., for exceptional performance in the Youth Challenge Program. He received the "Counselor's Award" at YCP. He was in danger of revocation before going to YCP, yet he became a leader and certainly gave more than the minimum required to get by. The youth earned early release from the judge as a result of his profound turn-around.

**PPO Monet Newman** noted that former client D.G. has enlisted in the National Guard.

**PPO Monet Newman's** client, K.M., was noted as the best employee the CPSB print shop has ever had. Monet treated the Transitional Living Program (independent living apartments) custody youth to lunch as a reward for consistent good behavior in both of his placements.

**PPO Jeff Haley's** client, G.B., made positive progress by making the honor roll at AMIkids. He has had perfect attendance, made banner roll and passed the LEAP Test.

**Thibodaux Regional Office****Congratulations**

**PPO Rachel Loupe** was the July **Employee of the Month**. She is a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux.

**PPO Peter Pobocik** successfully completed the Probation and Parole POST Academy in June. Great job! We are glad to have you back with us, Peter.

## Thank You Notes

A huge thanks goes out to **PPCT Instructors Yezette White, Daphne Johnson, Kelly Clement, Johnny Prentice and Carrie Austin** for traveling to Thibodaux to conduct our annual PPCT refresher/practice and re-certification days.

A **HUGE** thanks and recognition goes out to everyone who assisted in providing information needed for our ACA Audit. Everyone did a great job pulling together as a team. This is what we are and what we represent.....teamwork.

**PPOs Rachel Loupe and Allison Lirette**, attended **LAMOD Train the Trainers Training**, held at Central Office.

## Tallulah Regional Office

**PPO3 Kim Green** is a member of a community organization, Lake Providence Junior Auxiliary (LPJA), that helps needy families and children in the community.

LPJA provides anything from child care, tuition for a mom to get her CNA license, to helping with birthday, Christmas, school clothes, as well as teaching children proper hygiene, how to eat healthy, exercise, expectations of babysitting, etc.

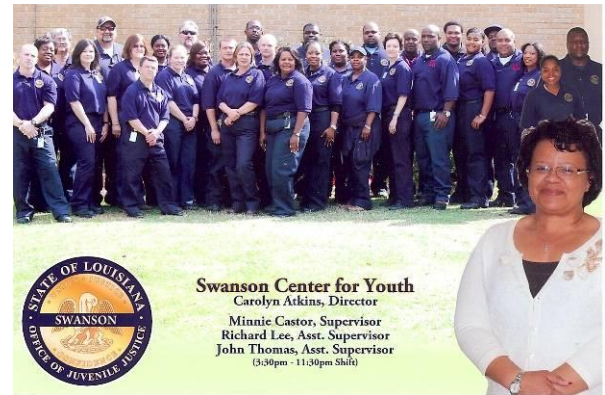
Kim is the race director for a fundraiser, the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Cotton States Triathlon, to be held August 13 in Lake Providence. This competition consists of a .25 mile swim, a 19.5 mile bike ride, and a 3.1 mile run. There were 106 competitors last year, several set up in teams.

**Please contact Kim if you are interested in participating.** Call 318.547.3552 or email [Kim.Green@la.gov](mailto:Kim.Green@la.gov)

## Swanson Center for Youth

### 3:30 – 11:30pm Shift Shows Unity

**JJS Minnie Castor** is all about UNITY. She is always coming up with ideas on how to keep the unity of her shift together and staff morale at its highest. One of Minnie's ideas was to have a group photo taken. Luckily Swanson has its very own professional photographer, **Instructor Lorenzo Brown**.



**"Castor's shift" – 3:30pm – 11:30pm shift**

## Youth Earn a Trip to Grambling State University

Youth in the Mental Health Treatment Unit (MHTU) and the Transitional Mental Health Unit (TMHU) were given the opportunity to earn a trip to Grambling State University. The youth signed a contract agreement whereby they would receive no minor or major violations in a 30 day period. **Charlotte Shyne, LSU ATAP**, contacted the GSU band department, the book store, the cafeteria, the Eddie G. Robinson Museum and **Coach Doug Williams** in advance. Coach Williams' response was, "bring 'em on!" So, in June, Charlotte, along with **JJSs Reginald Hammock, Billy Miller and Vernon Foy** "brought 'em"!



*Enjoying the Grambling trip are: back row: JJSs Billy Miller, Vernon Foy and Reginald Hammock. Front row: youth Lacedrick G., Dequell G., Alexander C.*

During the visit youth and staff toured the bookstore, where the boys were given a GSU t-shirt and backpack; the new Conrad Hutchinson Performing Arts Center, where the band receives a lot of their training and the new Eddie G. Robinson Museum. They visited with former Super Bowl Quarterback Champion and **GSU Coach Doug Williams**, who gave the boys an encouraging pep talk and signed their tee-shirts. The boys were able to choose from a variety of cuisine in the student cafeteria. Ms. Shyne stated, "Overall, I feel this was a life-transforming experience for these youth."



*Youth visit with Coach Doug Williams at Grambling. From left, JJS Miller, youth Lacedrick G., Coach Doug Williams, youth Dequell G., and JJS Foy. Kneeling: youth Alexander C.*

## SCY Holds Graduation

Swanson held its 2010-2011 graduation ceremony in June. 17 of the 32 youth who received a GED diploma participated in the cap and gown ceremony. The other 15 youth had been released from SCY prior to graduation.

Awarding of the diplomas was conducted by **Acting Deputy Director/Principal Will Lee**, **Director of Education Kim Mims** and **Deputy Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton**.

The National Anthem was beautifully sung (as always) by **Social Service Counselor Alma Holmes** and the guest speaker for the ceremony was City of Monroe **Mayor James "Jamie" Mayo**. Congratulations, graduates!



*Director Carolyn Atkins, Youth Job N., Director of Education Kim Mims and Monroe Mayor Jamie Mayo at the graduation ceremony.*



*Fuschias in the Catskill Mountains.*



## Shreveport Regional Office

### Congratulations

Shreveport OJJ's **Employee of the Month** for June was **PPO Anthony Hall**. Anthony is a hard-working employee and an asset to the office.

**PPO Holly Black** and **PPO Bennie Walters** graduated from the POST Academy in June. We are very proud of them and excited to have them back in the office!



*PPO Holly Black and PPO Bennie Walters*

**PPO Kristen McKee** and her husband **John** became the proud parents of a baby girl, **Amelia Mae**, born on June 6, weighing 8 lbs, 3 ounces, and 19 1/2 inches long.

### Community Involvement

Shreveport OJJ staff supported the efforts of **Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator**, who sponsors an annual summer camp for youth. PPOs volunteered and assisted Caddo Sheriff Deputies by serving as camp counselors during the weeklong event held in June. Participating were **PPOs Todd Carlisle, Alan Glover, Anthony Hall, Fabrecia Roberson** and **Brandy Stratton**. The camp is sponsored by the Caddo Sheriff's Office and Boy Scouts of America and was held at Garland Scout Camp in Stonewall. The camp is completely free for kids and targets at-risk boys ages 10-13. All the PPOs had a great time interacting with the kids!

After-hours community curfew checks were conducted under the supervision of **PPS Steve Martino** and **PPS Guy May**. PPOs participating were **Natalie Pope, Jennifer Hill, Todd Carlisle, LaNita Lars, Anthony Hall, Fabrecia Roberson, Jarred Cram, Brandy Stratton, LaTonya Marshall** and **Ciera Murphy**. The Honorable **Judge David Matlock** of Caddo Juvenile Court happened to run into PPOs in the community, and he called **RM Kristi Martin** to let her know that he was very pleased to see OJJ out in the community after-hours checking on youth!

## New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

### Congratulations

**PP03 Milton Crosby, Jr.** was the June **Employee of the Month**. The Region I family congratulates Milton and recognizes him for his hard work and diligence on behalf of our agency, youth and families, for providing over 26 years of service. Milton said, "To God be the glory, through His grace and mercy, I am who, what and where I am today."



### We All Went Down to the Audubon Zoo

We took time out to celebrate the success of several of our youths this school year by rewarding them with an enrichment activity at the Audubon Institute of New Orleans. We also thanked the staff for encouraging our youth to do well. Staff who accompanied youth were **R.M. Kelly Clement, PPO Leonine Reine** and **Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit**. The youths who attended truly had a fun filled day and expressed hopes of next going to the aquarium or insectarium.

We would like to thank the Audubon Institute with an abundance of gratitude for receiving our youth in the spirit of excellence.



*Below are pictures from the zoo outing.*



### **Staff Give Blood to Send Kids to Camp**

In June the New Orleans Adult Probation and Parole office held a blood drive in order to provide terminally ill youth with the opportunity to attend summer camp. When officers from our office heard about the event, several jumped at the opportunity – including PPO3 Milton Crosby, Jr., **PPO3 Dorothy Crump** and **PPO2 Kimberly Dickerson**. Thanks for giving the gift of life.



*Antique rose Buff Beauty in Port Hudson.*

### **YEP Participated in National Lemonade Day**

The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) participated in the National Lemonade Day activities in New Orleans. We were notified that our kids operated the most successful business for the 2011 South Louisiana Lemonade Day!

The kids raised \$1,007 that they split among themselves after they each donated \$5.00 to the charity they chose - YEP's Summer Camp program that they participate in at no cost to themselves or their families.

**YEP Director of Case Management Glenis Scott, Sr.** and **Executive Director Melissa Sawyer**, and two of our Lemonade Day participants were invited to be the guests of Junior Achievement and Raising Cane's at the annual Business Hall of Fame and Award Ceremony at the Fairmont Hotel. The youth who attended were called to the stage to receive a token of appreciation from Junior Achievement for a job well done!

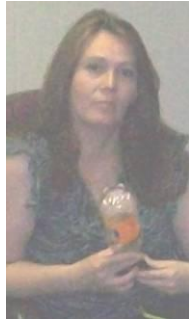


*Above and below: YEP's National Lemonade Day activities in New Orleans.*



## Natchitoches Regional Office

### Congratulations



*Employee of the Month  
Rachal Martin, Transport  
Officer*

Staff would like to say congratulations to PPOs **Kelvin Jones** and **Todd Roszell** who graduated from the POST Academy. Good job, y'all!



*PPS Kristen McComic with Kelvin Jones at graduation.*



*PPO Todd Roszell*

## Monroe Regional Office

Monroe OJJ said good-bye to **PPO2 Amanda Wilhite**, who left OJJ to work for adult Probation & Parole. We will miss her, and wish her the best.

**RM Patty Newman, PPS Karl Wallace, PPS Linda Williams** and **PPS Gail Wilson** attended the LASERS Seminar held recently at Swanson. We all enjoyed a morning spent talking about retirement.



**PPS Gail Wilson and husband Mark** proudly welcomed their first grandchild, **Mila Reppond Talbert**, on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mila weighed 6 lbs. 11 ounces, and measured 19 inches. Baby Mila and Mama (Katie) are doing great! PPS Gail Wilson is pictured with her new granddaughter, Mila.

## Lake Charles Regional Office

### OJJ Anniversaries

**Adm Coordinator 4 Annette Stoddard** celebrated 13 years of service on June 15th.

**PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist** celebrated 8 years of service on June 2nd.

**PPO3 Rebecca Harmon** celebrated 4 years of service on June 4th.

### Summertime...and the livin' is easy...

Summer 2011 offered many amazing vacations for our staff, including trips to Scotland, Disney World, church conferences, San Francisco, California (Napa Valley and Sonoma Valley), Graceland and several

caverns, professional ball games and visits to stunning wax museums, etc.

Summer 2011 lunchroom conversation quite often featured the topic of children's birthday party planning. **Hollie Comeaux, Alexis Heflin, Delisa Clark, Monet Newman** and **Melissa Cross** all planned themed birthday parties for our children between May and July. We have enjoyed seeing one another's photos after hearing so much about the events in advance!

### **Kudos and Appreciation for Jobs Well Done**

In a staff meeting **PPO Ronald Gilchrist** was discussed as a great example for Motivational Interviewing. It was said that he maintains an incredible boundary between authoritarian and a caring individual in the kids' lives. He is able to play basketball and spend time with his probationers without losing the respect that is needed for his directives and instructions as probation officer.

In the month of June, ORM Safety Officer **PPO Jeff Haley** prepared documentation after two minor car wrecks. He received kudos from Central Office, ORM reps, former **Safety Officer Ken Vidrine** and **PPS Melissa Cross**. He was very detailed and prompt in handling this responsibility.

**PPO Angela Stevens** and **PPO Ronald Gilchrist** volunteered and safely transported two, secure care male sex offenders from Beauregard Court to Ware Youth Center's Detention Facility, with an office return time of 1:00 a.m. Both were present at work before 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. for their respective starts of the next workday.

**PPO Rebecca Harmon** and **PPO Ronald Gilchrist** played basketball with at-risk youth in Jennings in June and July. **Rebecca** is extremely motivated about the relationship and motivation this activity has created, so she went the extra mile and recruited donations from Wal-Mart, Super Foods Store,

and the Jennings District Attorney's Office. The donations allowed for purchase of a new basketball, refreshments and other items for the games. **Adm. Coordinator 3 Erline Pierce** also sought a donation of ice from a local Dairy Barn. Rebecca and Ronald recruited entire office involvement and are asking other PPOs to come out and join them on the courts.

**PPO Hollie Comeaux** and **PPO Alexis Heflin** worked very hard on the collection of ACA documentation for our office, with assistance provided by **PPS Ken Vidrine** and **PPS Melissa Cross**. They dedicated a day to completing the project and did a very good job.

**PPO Delisa Clark** is recognized for working very hard to be sure that all of her work was in the best shape possible prior to taking vacation in July. Lots of attention to detail was noted. Delisa is also appreciated for recognizing times of need for others and being extra supportive in those times.

**RM Ann Vick** has created committees for the CSOM/JSOTP - the Center for Sexual Offender Management/Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program - to modify the existing Prevention PowerPoint to tailor the information contained in the presentation to the interests and appropriate level of each particular audience, including parents of elementary school, middle school, and high school students.

**PPO Garrick Chambers** completed NRA School in May and he appears to be excited about his new role.

**PPO Garrick Chambers** is appreciated for often doing some of the transports with the most undesirable time schedules and conditions. Garrick never complains. He is very dedicated and a very hard worker, and he remains in the field through late hours.

**PPO Hollie Comeaux** and **PPO Garrick Chambers** work a parish that rarely gets



mentioned because of the incredible job they are doing. Allen Parish does not have any kids in OJJ's legal custody as a direct result of Hollie and Garrick's hard work. They operate as a finely tuned machine in Allen Parish, and we appreciate that their hard work keeps it considered a low drama parish!

**PPO Delisa Clark** made positive observations in June. She observed staff "pulling together" for resolution of challenges and to resolve dilemmas related to limited resources (i.e. state vehicles). Compromise and sharing was observed time and time again. People were solution-focused this month.

In June **PPOs Alexis Heflin** and **Monet Newman** attended a 40-hour course on Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) presented by Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's office.

**PPO Angie Stevens** was recognized by **Suzie Durrett** for continuing to care about a youth's personal goals of enrolling in a Youth Challenge Program, even as he was making plans to exit the state (and her) supervision.

**PPO3 Delisa Clark** and **Program Specialist Karli Pullard** attended AMIkids' program graduation ceremony. **PPO2 Angie Stevens'** client, M.L., was one of the graduates, and he was dressed in a cap and gown. Delisa and Karli were asked to speak at the ceremony. Several AMI graduates were awarded Certificates of Completion.

Calcasieu Parish OJJS celebrated the M.A.R.C. (Multi-Assessment Resource Center) ribbon cutting ceremony as the renovations of the building are complete, the staff are trained, and our new, "one-stop-shop" is open. It has inspired Beauregard Parish to attempt something similar.



*Lotus blossom in a pond in Port Hudson.*

## Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

### Congratulations

Congratulations to **PPO Heather Campbell** on her marriage to her fiancé, Jacob, on June 24. We wished the newlyweds a safe and fun honeymoon, and a wonderful marriage!

**PPOs Jamie Baronet, Justin Beasley, George Hebert** and **Blair Johnson** graduated from the POST Academy in June. They did us proud, and we are glad to have them back at work!

The Lafayette Region Basketball "Dream Team," consisting of **PPOs Bobby Jesset, Deacon Jones, Chris Potier, Ronald Rogers, Brian Simpson, Wanda Sylvester** and **Mike Waters**, took on a team of residents at the St. Martin Juvenile Training Center in June. Other OJJ personnel and residents and staff of the facility were there to cheer both teams on. All players had a great time playing, and the OJJ Dream Team managed to eak out a victory.

Lafayette OJJ bids farewell to **Education Specialist Lou Bertha Gloston**, who retired in June. A going-away luncheon, coordinated by **PPS Sharon Guillory**, was held at the Opelousas Office. We'll miss you, Lou!

**RM Susan Miller** would like to thank the supervisors, probation officers, and support staff for doing such an excellent job pulling together all the ACA documentation. Susan said, "This was an HUGE task done in a very short period of time. Our documentation was great and well organized. Everyone pitched in and I appreciate their work."

**PPOs Cassandra Gardiner, LaKaisha Lewis** and **Scott Peyton** accompanied the staff and students of the VOA Day Program on a field trip to Baton Rouge. The students had a wonderful time, and the staff was thankful for the assistance of the OJJ staff.

## Jetson Center for Youth

### Scenic Alternative High School Holds Graduation Ceremony

June 17 was the date that family, staff and students celebrated the academic success of 11 graduates. These students received their GED diplomas, which is evidence of their educational pursuits. As part of the ceremony, each graduate received a graduation ring, of which they are proud.



*The Jetson class ring.*

The keynote speaker was East Baton Rouge Parish **District Attorney Hillar Moore**. He emphasized the importance of an education, as this is one tool which will break the cycle of crime. He encouraged each student to thank the important persons in their lives who helped them to achieve this goal.



*EBR district Attorney Hillar Moore with Dr. Mary Livers at Jetson's graduation.*

The first annual award for reading was presented as a result of author **Ernest Gaines'** partnership with OJJ. Author Gaines spoke to the graduates and advised them that reading will set them free. One student each from

Bridge City, Jetson and Swanson were presented the award with a gift card to a book store.



*Asst. Sec. Dr. Girard Melancon with author Ernest Gaines, who addressed students at the graduation ceremony, where students were presented with a reading award.*

The Jetson culinary department prepared a delicious meal which was served to all guests, staff and students.

### Teachers Attend Connections Workshop

A Connections workshop presented by the Louisiana Department of Education was held at Marksville High School in June for teachers in public schools.

Two Jetson teachers, **Ms. Stewart** and **Ms. Gail Hargrove**, went to gather information about this initiative, which begins in the new school year. Teachers from Bridge City and Swanson also attended, as did **Dr. Roy Higgins**, principal of BCCY Riverside Alternative High School.

The participants learned about the different aspects of the Connections program. One component will be a mentoring aspect. The Connections program is for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students achieving at least 2 grade levels below 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Through extensive remediation, it is anticipated that these students can be successful on the high stakes 8<sup>th</sup> grade LEAP exam.

Central office staff will design and implement this program for OJJ's three schools. It is very important that we stay informed about

upcoming changes to the school offerings that will help our students be successful.

In the past two years, Scenic Alternative High School at Jetson Center for Youth under the stable leadership of **Principal Ronnie B. Knox**, has seen a marked growth in many areas.

Students' scores on the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) has increased by 63% for school year 2010 and 64% for school year 2011.

A great deal of success has been seen in the initiation of new programs such as the college program at Louisiana Technical College, Baton Rouge campus, the C-Tech vocational program; the partnership with Southern University's Agricultural Center, and improved technology for the library.

Quarterly motivational programs have provided students with support from community leaders and students are learning to be good citizens. Community leaders in East Baton Rouge Parish who have spoken to the students are **Mayor Kip Holden**, former **Baton Rouge Police Chief Jeff LeDuff**, **District Attorney Hillar Moore** and former **State Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek**.

Recently, Scenic Alternative High School received a performance indicator score report from OJJ **Director of Education Kim Mims**. The report indicated an increase in the ACT scores from 15 in 2009 to 19 in 2010. Mr. Knox was pleased with this performance report but he sees ways for improvement. He will begin to break down core subject performance scores to see individual improvement.

Mr. Knox works daily, as do the faculty and staff, to make improvements. Mr. Knox said, "I come daily to make a difference in a youth's life, one student at a time."

## Youth Attend SU Family Expo

**Director Daron Brown, Program Manager Belinda Thomas, JJS Scarlett Pryer and JJS Larry Spears** escorted two youth, Damarcus G. and Steven C., to the Southern University Family and Youth Expo.

Director Brown spoke words of encouragement to the youth about the importance of an education, listening to their parents, and setting goals.

Youths Greene and Castro gave testimonies of their lives. Both youth shared their personal experiences and encouraged the youth to listen to their parents, how to choose friends, being obedient to all adults, going to school, and most importantly, that committing crimes is not the healthy choice to make.

Director Brown and the youth spoke very well and the children who attended the expo were very attentive to every word that was spoken.

## Southern University Report Lauds Partnership with Jetson



**Chancellor's Report  
Presented to:  
Board of Supervisors  
Southern University  
June 2011**

## SU Ag Center to Partner with Scenic Alternative School

A group of 15 students toured the facilities of Southern University Ag Center on May 26 with hopes of future collaborative work. These students along with some correctional officers came from Scenic Alternative School, Jetson Youth Correctional Facility (JCY).



At 8:00 am, the group arrived at the SU Ag Center research station in Baker where they observed the beef and goat operation, including the forage plots. Later, they visited the green house complex as well as the Circle Garden project on the grounds of Southern University, Baton Rouge. Next, they toured the poultry unit, and then went to lunch. They finished the day with a nutrition and taste testing session, tour of the SU Ag Center facility and a riding tour of the SUBR campus. The goal of the visit was for JCY to partner with SU Ag Center and learn how to raise plants and animals as a means of developing leadership skills and healthy eating habits among the youth.

**Assistant Secretary Dr. Girard J. Melancon** sent an email to Christie Monroe after the visit stating: "Mrs. Monroe, Our hats go off to you! Your team has done a great job demonstrating all the great work SU Ag is doing in Baton Rouge. Our youth left inspired and ready to move forward with our partnership. Again, thank you for being so willing to partner with us and assisting us to take our youth to the next level."

Future planning meetings include the development of a curriculum for classroom instruction and experiential learning in areas of interest to the youth. A potential certification component is also in the discussion stage.



*Monroe, right explains egg formation.*

## Hammond Regional Office

### Welcome

The staff of Hammond OJJ is very pleased to welcome **Sue Larisey** as our Regional Manager! Sue was previously "on loan" to us from Baton Rouge OJJ and was managing both offices during that time period. We're very happy to have her here permanently!

### Superstar!

**PPO3 Theresa Andries** was the Hammond OJJ Superstar for June. She was recognized by **PPO2 Jenna Hill** for assistance with a case while she was in the academy.

### Congratulations

**PPO Danielle August** was reallocated to a PPO3.

### Training Events

Our staff was recently recertified in PPCT.

**PPO3 Kasey Wall** attended LAMOD training.

**AC4 Courtney Pegues** attended training on ISIS Receiving.

## Hammond OJJ Partners with Northshore Technical College and the MacArthur Foundation

**Dean Sharon Hornsby**, Northshore Technical College dean, announced that the college was recently awarded a grant by the McArthur Foundation. The Northshore Technical College, in partnership with Models for Change and the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice, is pleased to announce the availability of enrollment opportunities for OJJ youth at the Northshore Technical College in a variety of technical programs, made possible by the grant from the Models for Change program,

of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



*Staff members of the Northshore Technical College, from left, JoEllen Carruth, Freshman Orientation Instructor; Sharon Hornsby, Dean; Karolyn Pinsell Harrell, Criminal Justice Coordinator and MacArthur Grant Coordinator; and Laura Bass, Financial Aid Officer.*

In August, Northshore will begin offering an exciting program that engages adjudicated youth between the ages of 16 and 21 in work based training, education, and family focused activities that will offer everyone involved the chance to rebuild their community and their lives.

The main focus of the program is to provide technical education through formal classroom training and hands-on instruction that will allow adjudicated youth and young adults to go back to school to earn a GED, while matching hands-on experience through a technical program will allow them to become successful members of the workforce.

Focus group meetings were held in four areas throughout the region in Hammond, Greensburg, Bogalusa, and Walker.

This is a truly exciting opportunity for our youth.

## Central Office

**DAS Karen Stubbs** recently taught a class at the LSU School of Social Work. She discussed OJJ's role in the juvenile justice system.

## Congratulations

**IT Programmer Shannon Howell and her husband Bob**, thanks to her daughter **Jennifer and husband Josh Halley**, are the proud grandparents of a beautiful granddaughter, **Kennedy Hart Halley**.

Kennedy was born June 20, weighing in at 6 pounds, 8 ounces, and 19 1/2 inches long.



## Bridge City Center for Youth

### Riverside HS Superstars!

Riverside Alternative High School reinforces positive behavior and academic expectation with quarterly celebrations for students who consistently go above and beyond what is expected. This semester, the school recognized two dormitories for their success. Liberty and Harmony Dormitory enjoyed music, dessert and a spread of chicken, pizza, fries, meat pies and whatever the youth requested, to honor their success in modeling positive social graces, maintaining high scholastic achievement and serving as role models for other young people along their journey toward responsible citizenship. The criteria for this honor include good behavior in school, class participation, report card grades and standardized test scores. Students have improved in reading, writing and math, some by as much as five points on a 13-point scale. Others have reduced infractions throughout their unit, and many students from these units assist school staff after earning their high school diploma or GED. Congratulations to our Riverside Superstars!

## Baton Rouge Regional Office

Baton Rouge OJJ kicked off the month of June by welcoming back our POST Academy graduates: **PPO Steven Dukes, Yolonda Latimer, and Keelen Robinson**. The graduation was held at the Old State Capitol in downtown Baton Rouge. Among the many graduates who were honored during the ceremony, was our very own **PPO Yolonda Latimer**! She received the award for honor of "Best Attitude"! We are so very proud of all of you. Welcome back!



*POST graduates Keelen Robinson, Yolonda Latimer, and Steven Dukes*

Later in the month we had a luncheon to bid a bittersweet farewell to **RM Sue Larisey**, who transferred to Hammond OJJ as Regional Manager. Congratulations RM Larisey, we wish you the best!

## Congratulations

**PPO Courtney Dickerson** was the **Employee of the Month** for June. Courtney was nominated by her co-workers because of her kind and caring attitude toward the youth she serves. Courtney works hard to motivate the youth to change their behavior in spite of their circumstances. She encourages them to get up when they are knocked down and push

through their pain and problems to make their futures brighter.

On May 28<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the marriage of **PPO Keelen Robinson**. Keelen married **Brittany Nada** in a beautiful outdoor ceremony surrounded by family and friends. Congratulations Keelen and Brittany!



*Brittany and Keelen Robinson*

## Kudos

In keeping in the humanitarian spirit that is always so prevalent at Baton Rouge OJJ, **PPO Marina Jenkins, SSC Jennifer Anderson, PPO Keondra Riley, PPO Yolonda Latimer** and **RM Michelle Thomas** donated food to a family in need from Marina's caseload. The family was truly appreciative for everything.

## You're Looking Good

**PPO Leslie Jones** took care to notice that one of our youth who was being transported for an evaluation was traveling in clothing that no longer fit, and she purchased her a completely new outfit. Leslie, thanks for going above the call of duty again!



## Alexandria Regional Office

### Welcome

We welcome **PPO1 Justin Guidry**, who joined us in June.

### Congratulations

**PPO3 Lori Johnson** made the President's Honor List at McNeese State University.

**PPO Franklin Parrino** stuck it out and graduated from the POST Academy. He had the highest test score in his academy class.

**RM Johnny Qualls** and **PPS Pamela Oakes** attended the Alexandria Police Academy's graduation. Congratulations to Frank!

**PPR Robert Harris** continues to participate in a weight loss program at his church. Robert wants to start a weight loss program for OJJ across the state to promote good health.

**AC4 Sharon Graham** and **AC 3 Cassaundra onston** attended ISIS training at the Lafayette OJJ office in June.

### Community Affairs



*Family Liaison Donna Bowie and RM Johnny Qualls recently participated in the Region VI-Office of Behavioral Health-Children's Division and the Louisiana Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health Community Resource Fair held at Kees Park Community Center in Alexandria.*

## CHOOSE ....

John is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone asked him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!" He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, John was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation. Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I asked him, "You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

He replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or....you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or...I can choose to learn from it. Every time someone complains, I can choose to accept their complaining or...I can point out the positive side of life. Life is all about choices. Every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: it's your choice how you live your life."

I reflected on what he said. Soon after, I left the company. We lost touch, but I often thought about John when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it. Several years later, I heard that he was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, he was released from the hospital with rods in his back. I saw him about 6 months later.

I asked him how he was doing, and he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins...Wanna see my scars?" I declined to see his wounds, but I asked him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was the well-being of my soon-to-be born daughter," he replied. "Then I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or....I could choose to die. I chose to live."

He continued, "...the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man'. I knew I needed to take action. Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me. She asked if I was allergic to anything.

"Yes, I replied." The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Gravity'. Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead."

He lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude....I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully.

**Attitude, after all, is everything.**



## Recipe of the Month

### BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations

#### Chef Ronald J. Sonnier CEC

Unfortunately, Chef Ronald Sonnier is out of the office and the kitchen at Bridge City. He is at home recuperating from a total knee replacement. Still, we thought that you would enjoy some of his most popular recipes. You can't go wrong with these favorites. We hope you will enjoy impressing your friends and family with these great recipes! We wish you a speedy recovery, Chef Sonnier. We miss you!

### West Campus Pound Cake

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
 3 cups sugar  
 6 lg. eggs  
 3 cups all-purpose flour  
 ½ tsp baking powder  
 ½ tsp salt  
 1 cup heavy cream  
 2 tsp vanilla extract (you may use lemon or almond flavoring instead or use all the vanilla in combination with the almond for extra rich flavor)

Generously grease and flour a 10 inch Bundt pan. Do not preheat the oven.

Using an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugar together until fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Sift together baking powder, and salt. Alternately add flour mixture and heavy cream to butter-sugar mixture, put ½ of the flour, then ½ of the cream, beginning and ending with flour. Stir in flavoring.

Pour batter into a prepared pan. Put into a cold oven and set the temperature to 325° F. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes without opening the oven door. Bake for an additional 15 minutes if necessary. Remove from the oven and cool in pan for 15 minutes. Invert the cake onto a cake plate.

*For a real treat, serve yourself a slice while it's still warm.*



### Crawfish or Shrimp Dressing

Serve 8 - 10

1 cup chopped onion  
 1 cup chopped bell pepper  
 1 cup chopped celery  
 1 clove garlic, minced  
 ½ cup butter or margarine, melted  
 1 large egg, slightly beaten  
 1 cup Italian style seasoned bread crumbs  
 1/3 cup grated Parmesan or Romano cheese  
 1 tsp. Tony's Seasoning  
 ½ tsp. salt  
 ½ tsp. black pepper  
 1/3 tsp hot sauce  
 ¼ tsp thyme  
 1 lb. peeled crawfish tails or shrimp

Sauté onion, bell pepper, celery and garlic in butter until tender. Add remaining ingredients, mix well and spoon mixture into greased 12x8x2 inch baking dish. Bake in 350° oven for 30 minutes or until bubbly and cooked through.

# The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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